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courage is contagious

Viewing cable 05BUCHAREST153, THE NEW GOVERNMENT'S FIRST WEEKS - BASESCU COMES OUT STRONG

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Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cable's unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#05BUCHAREST153**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
05BUCHAREST153	2005-01-18 14:30	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy Bucharest
Appears in these articles: http://www.kamikazeonline.ro/2011/03/ambasada-sua-basescu-a-criticat-contractul-bechtel-n-campania-din-2004-dar-i-a-promis-lui-bush-dupa-vizita-din-martie-2005-ca-e-pro-bechtel/				

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 BUCHAREST 000153

SIPDIS

STATE DEPT FOR EUR/NCE WILLIAM SILKWORTH
STATE ALSO FOR INR/B
STATE PASS TO USAID

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/18/2015
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [KDEM](#) [SOCI](#) [ECON](#) [PINR](#) [RO](#)
SUBJECT: THE NEW GOVERNMENT'S FIRST WEEKS - BASESCU COMES OUT STRONG

REF: BUCHAREST 130

Classified By: POLITICAL SECTION CHIEF ROBERT GILCHRIST FOR REASON 1.4 A , B AND D

[1](#)1. (C) Summary: During his first several weeks in office, President Traian Basescu has been outspoken on the fight against corruption, foreign ACTIVIST PRESIDENT

[1](#)2. (C) Despite a constitutional provision restricting the partisan political activities of the head of state, President Traian Basescu's blunt BASESCU ON FOREIGN POLICY AND CORRUPTION

[1](#)3. (C) Since his inauguration, Basescu has been particularly outspoken about Romania's foreign policy priorities and the fight against corrupt

[1](#)4. (C) Basescu has reminded citizens of his campaign pledge to treat the fight against corruption as a national security issue. He has promise

[1](#)5. (C) On New Year's Eve, Basescu matched his candid public comments with behavior that his admirers describe as "spontaneous" and his detract INTERNAL POLITICKING IN THE RULING COALITION

[1](#)6. (SBU) In a newspaper interview published January 6, Basescu described the small Humanist Party's (PUR) presence in the National Liberal Par

[1](#)7. (C) PM Calin Popescu-Tariceanu subsequently declared in a newspaper interview published January 14 that "no political party" wants parliame GOVERNMENT GETTING ITS SEA LEGS

[1](#)8. (C) Leaders of the PNL-PD, their ethnic Hungarian party (UDMR) allies and the PUR also used the initial weeks of their turn at the helm to

[1](#)9. (C) Media commentators observed that many of the prefects are "young and rich," with the youngest only 27 years old. For the first time, tw

10.(C) The next important administrative task facing Tariceanu's government is the appointment of state secretaries, de facto "deputy ministers

11.(C) Practical difficulties notwithstanding, however, several new ministers, including the PM, have used their positions as bully pulpits, ou PARLIAMENTARY DEFECTORS TO STRENGTHEN RULING BLOC? ----- --

12.(C) PNL spokesman Eugen Nicolaescu claimed January 10 that 30 legislators from the PSD and the extreme nationalist Greater Romania Party (PF

[1](#)13. (C) Comment: Most Romanians appear to welcome Basescu's plainspoken candor and apparent commitment to follow through on campaign promises

At the same time, Basescu's outspokenness may serve to deflect some public scrutiny from the fact that PM Tariceanu's government remains a work 14.(U) Amembassy Bucharest,s reporting telegrams are available on the Bucharest SIPRNET Website: www.state.sgov.gov/p/eur/bucharest .

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